



# Rockport Board of Health

## Addendum to Title 5 Inspection Report

### Condition of Septic System Covers

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if other) \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Title 5 Inspector's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*"At the time of a Title 5 septic system inspection, the inspector shall note the status of all covers to-grade on a form provided by the Board of Health, and all non-conforming covers shall be retrofitted with a medium-duty cover that is affixed to the riser in a secure manner."—Rockport Board of Health regulation*

#### Status of Covers at Grade

Please list all septic components with covers at-grade, and note the following information to help the Board of Health determine whether the cover complies with local regulations or needs to be replaced.

<u>Septic component with cover at-grade</u>	<u>Material of Construction</u>	<u>Light, Medium, or Heavy Duty</u>	<u>Complies w/ local regulation?</u> (YES / NO)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Note here when: NO covers are at-grade (ALL covers are below grade). Circle: YES Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the "at-grade" covers do not comply with the "Covers at Grade" regulation, then a licensed Septic Installer must replace the cover (and riser, if needed) and notify the Board of Health on a separate form within two (2) business days of completing the replacement. There is no Board of Health fee for replacing covers +/- risers.

"Covers at Grade" regulation on back page.

**Below are sections of the Rockport Board of Health septic system regulations pertaining to Covers at Grade, adopted October 2012. (Staff notes added for clarity).**

### 3. Definitions

Light weight covers – less than 90 lbs (*Regulation should be amended: “Less than 75 lbs”*)

Medium duty covers – 90 lbs minimum weight and is secure from unauthorized access.  
(*Regulation should be amended: “75 lbs minimum...”*)

### 8. Covers at Grade

**8.1.** In order to decrease the risk of a person or animal falling into a septic tank (or similarly dangerous septic component, e.g. pump chamber, holding tank, cesspool, treatment tank, leach pit, dry well) the following regulation is enacted. Light-weight covers that require bolts or screws (or similar) to secure the cover from unauthorized access, are not allowed. The rationale for this regulation is that people do not reliably replace the bolts/screws.

**8.2. Covers at grade shall be cast iron, minimum "medium duty",** whether bolts are present or not. (Bolts are not required.) Inside horizontal lip shall be smaller than the cover by a minimum of 1.5” diameter (3/4” radius). Vertical lip height shall be a minimum of 50% greater than the thickness of the outside edge of the cover.

**8.3.** Exceptions for *continued or future* use of light-weight, bolted covers can be made if the tank is filled with sand, stone, or other filter media that would support 250 lbs.

(*Section 8.4 does not apply at time of Title 5 inspection*)

**8.4.** Exceptions for *continued use* of light-weight, bolted covers can be made if a safety grate is installed. However, light-weight, bolted covers cannot be *newly installed*, even with the use of safety grates, unless 8.3 is met above.

(*Section 8.5 does not apply at time of Title 5 inspection*)

**8.5.** Effective immediately, all non-conforming covers shall be retrofitted with a safety grate. Licensed septic haulers are required to inform customers of this requirement at the time of pump out.

**8.6. At the time of a Title 5 septic system inspection, the inspector shall note the status of all covers to grade on a form provide by the Board of Health, and all non-conforming covers shall be retrofitted with a medium-duty cover that is affixed to the riser in a secure manner.**

**8.7.** Light-weight covers that are secure *without* the use of bolts are allowed. For example, plastic covers in which the entire cover turns and screws into the tank or riser (e.g. certain poly tanks) are allowed.

**8.8.** Below-grade access covers shall be pre-cast concrete and have minimum depth of 9" soil coverage.